



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 7, 2010**

**Contact:** Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **Burglary of Vehicle and Auto Theft Safety Tips for ACL Music Festival**

The Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project would like to remind residents that car thieves will be window shopping during the Austin City Limits Music Festival. It's a known fact that where you are, car thieves are, too.

Every year, tens of thousands of individuals lose their identity, transportation, safety and well-being to vehicle related crimes. Most of these crimes can be prevented if drivers will take a few extra moments to hide their belongings, lock their vehicles and take their keys.

State Farm Insurance is partnering with APD to promote "Where you are, Car Thieves are" mobile billboards that will be displayed on taxi cabs to remind the Austin community that car thieves are everywhere. The mobile ads will run for three months beginning in October 2010. State Farm and APD continue to partner together to raise awareness and reduce auto thefts and burglary of vehicles in the Austin area.

When it comes to your auto insurance, State Farm recommends contacting your agent to make sure you are adequately covered. Collision and liability coverage most likely will not cover theft of contents from a vehicle. Comprehensive coverage typically covers the damage caused by the break-in, and in some cases, homeowners insurance covers the items stolen from inside the vehicle.

Additionally, vehicles equipped with certain anti-theft devices, such as an ignition cut-off switch, a steel collar covering the steering column, an alarm system or a hood restraint, may qualify for a discount on auto insurance.

APD and State Farm Insurance remind residents to protect your vehicles by taking precautions that will make them less of a target:

- Lock Your Car – don't make it easier for a thief to enter your vehicle
- Park in well-lit areas – More than half of all vehicle thefts occur at night
- Don't leave valuables in plain view – don't make your car a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

- Never leave your car running, even if you will only be gone for a minute. In Texas, leaving your key in an unattended motor vehicle is a crime

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project appreciates the support and generous grant from State Farm Insurance. The Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project programs are funded through the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to reduce auto and burglary theft in the State of Texas.

**Media Advisory:** An Auto Theft Detective and State Farm Insurance Representative will be available for interview at 10 a.m. at APD Headquarters on Friday, October 8, 2010. Please call APD PIO at 512-974-5017 if you plan to attend.

###

